

(Washington, DC) -

Congresswoman Debbie Halvorson today commented on the Department of Energy's announcement that Argonne National Laboratory will receive \$13.1 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. Many residents of the 11th District proudly work at Argonne National Laboratory, researching and creating the technology to keep our country first in the world in innovation.

The bill passed Congress and was signed last February with the purpose of saving or creating over three million jobs, including an estimated 8,600 jobs in the 11th District. The bill also invests in the technology and research necessary to lay the groundwork for a more prosperous economy.

Argonne's funds will be used for needed upgrades and replacement of major electrical switches and equipment at the oldest of the nation's national laboratories, which will mark a first step toward rehabilitation of the laboratory's central campus for research in computational and energy sciences.

"When I voted for the stimulus bill, not only was I voting to create an estimated 8,600 jobs in the 11th Congressional District - I voted to lay the groundwork for a stronger economy and a more prosperous future. The recovery bill covers many areas - from veterans, to infrastructure, to assistance and health care for the unemployed. But perhaps nothing will help our economy in the long run more than the investments we've made in education, energy and technology to reduce our reliance on foreign oil, protect the environment, and develop sources of energy that will help our economy grow."